

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SAM-01

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 HEW-02 /091 W

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R 291727Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PINT, AO, PO

SUBJ: NOVA LISBOA REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: LISBON 4989 DTG 281554Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: NOVA LISBOA REFUGEE LEADERS DEPICT SITUATION IN
ANGOLAN CITY AS ONE OF GROWING DISASTER; APPEAL FOR IMMEDIATE
EVACUATION. END SUMMARY

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1. REFUGEE LEADERS APPEAL FOR US AID: TWO SPOKESMEN FOR THE

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR AID TO DISPLACED PERSONS (COMMISSAO NACIONAL DE APOIO AOS DESALOGADOS), THE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING REFUGEE INTERESTS IN THE NOVA LISBOA REGION OF ANGOLA, CAME TO EMBASSY AUG 27 TO APPEAL FOR US AID. THE TWO INDIVIDUALS, JOAO RUIVO DA COSTA AND ZINA MOURAO, CARRIED A LETTER TESTIFYING TO THEIR POSITION WITH THE COMMISSION SIGNED BY PORTUGUESE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF HUAMBO. BOTH HAD MADE THE ROUNDS OF OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES THAT DAY IN AN EFFORT TO ACQUIRE AID.

2. TRAGEDY IN NOVA LISBOA. THE TWO HAD KNOWLEDGE ONLY ABOUT SITUATION IN NOVA LISBOA AND SURROUNDING AREA, AND THEIR PRESENTATION WAS DESIGNED TO SET FORTH THE PRESSING REASONS FOR IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF PORTUGUESE REFUGEES. THEIR PRINCIPAL POINTS WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- THE ANGOLAN SITUATION HAS BECOME ONE OF GENERALIZED VIOLENCE, WITH NO END IN SIGHT. PORTUGUESE NATIONALS ARE CONVINCED THAT IF THEY STAY THEY WILL BE DEAD WITHIN THE YEAR; AS A RESULT, ONLY THE RARE EXCEPTION HAS DECIDED NOT TO EVACUATE.
- MPLA HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE PORTUGUESE, AND MPLA CONTROL OF THE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES NORTH TO LUANDA AND WEST TO THE COAST, HAVE EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED THE ESCAPE AVENUES FOR THE PORTUGUESE IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF ANGOLA. NOVA LISBOA, DUE TO ITS AIRPORT, HAS BECOME THE FOCAL POINT FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THIS AREA WISHING TO ESCAPE THE TURMOIL.
- REFUGEES ARE POURING INTO NOVA LISBOA. CURRENTLY THERE ARE 70,000 REFUGEES IN THE CITY. (COMMENT: GOP ESTIMATES TOTAL EVACUEES TO BE 60,000.) WITHIN 48 HOURS THE NUMBER WILL BE UP TO 110,000 AND AFTER THAT IT COULD CLIMB TO 150,000 AND MORE.
- THE POPULATION OF THE CITY HAS ALREADY MORE THAN DOUBLED, CAUSING GRAVE HOUSING PROBLEMS. THERE IS A SERIOUS LACK OF MATTRESSES AND BLANKETS. MANY ARE SLEEPING IN THE STREETS.
- THE CITY HAS EXHAUSTED ITS SUPPLIES OF BREAD, MEAT, FISH, RICE, LARD, CEREALS, FLOUR, BEANS, BUTTER, AND VEGETABLE OILS. FEEDING THE POPULATION HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE.
- TECHNICIANS RUNNING THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANTS AT CATUMBELA ARE LEAVING THEIR POSTS DUE TO FEAR. THIS PLACES NOVA LISBOA'S ELECTRICAL SUPPLY IN JEOPARDY, AND THREATENS ITS WATER SUPPLY, WHICH IS DEPENDENT ON ELECTRIC PUMPS. NATURAL GAS SUPPLIED HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXHAUSTED.
- THERE ARE NO DOCTORS, NURSES, BLOOD, DRUGS, OR MEDICINES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOVA LISBOA. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES SUCH AS MEASLES, TYPHOID, AND TUBERCULOSIS ARE ON THE RISE. EFFECTIVE SANITATION IS IMPOSSIBLE.

THE RAINY SEASON IS DUE TO START IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS, AGGRAVATING ALL PROBLEMS

-UNLESS EVACUATION IS EFFECTED SOON, LACK OF SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICES COULD RAPIDLY LEAD TO A MASSIVE SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN WITH RIOTING, LOOTING, MURDER, AND SUICIDE.

3. REFUGEE CONSERVATISM: BOTH REPRESENTATIVES SPOKE OF THE CONSERVATISM OF THE REFUGEES AND THEIR INTENSE DISLIKE FOR THE CURRENT LEFT-LEANING LISBON REGIME. AS REFUGEES EMARK IN NOVA LISBOA ON PORTUGUESE-BOUND PLANES, REMAINING INDIVIDUALS IN TERMINAL SHOUT THINGS LIKE "DON'T KILL ALL THE COMMUNISTS, SAVE ONE FOR ME." BOTH VOUCHED FOR THE VERACITY OF RECENT RUMORS THAT SIX MDP/CE "ACOLYTES" SENT TO PROPAGANDIZE THE INATEL REFUGEE CAMP IN CAPARICA ACROSS THE RIVER FROM LISBON HAD BEEN MURDERED BY ANGRY REFUGEES.

4. TRANSPORT OF PERSONAL EFFECTS: REFUGEE LEADERS ASKED THAT IF POSSIBLE SHIPS BE SENT TO MOCAMEDES, WHERE LARGE AMOUNT OF REFUGEE PROPERTY IS STORED, TO TRANSPORT THESE GOODS TO PORTUGAL. SINCE REFUGEES WOULD OTHERWISE BE ARRIVING IN METROPOLE WITH NOTHING, GOODS COULD BE SOLD FOR MUCH NEEDED CASH.

5. COMMENT: REFUGEES ALREADY IN PORTUGAL HAVE UNANIMOUSLY AND CONSISTENTLY DESCRIBED ANGOLAN SITUATION AS TRAGEDY WELL ON THE ROAD TO UNMITIGATED DISASTER. THE NOVA LISBOA SITUATION SEEMS TO FIT THIS CHARACTERIZATION.

CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, AIR TRANSPORTATION, EVACUATION PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON05032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750300-1098
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975086/aaaaaejz.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 4989
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by WorreISW>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVA LISBOA REFUGEE SITUATION
TAGS: SREF, PINT, EAIR, AO, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006